

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 IO-13 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2375

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS:MILI PFOR KS US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PAK COMMENTS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL

1. ANNOUNCING DURING MEETING WITH KOREAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION LEADERS FEBRUARY 25 THAT U.S. HAD NOT AS YET RAISED TROOP ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE ROK, PRESIDENT PAK ACCORDING ROK PRESS SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT U.S. TO HANDLE QUESTION HASTILY, THEN WENT ON TO REAFFIRM THAT "IT IS OUR (ROK) DESIRE TO SEE THE U.S. ARMED FORCES STATIONED HERE CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL THE TIME WHEN OUR SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE IS COMPLETED..." AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, PAK REMARKED, "ALTHOUGH THIS IS OUR WISH, WE SHOULD BE DETERMINED AND PREPARED TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY WITH OUR OWN STRENGTH IN TERMS OF BASIC DEFENSE POLICIES."

2. PAK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. WITHDRAWAL MIGHT CAUSE "PSYCHOLOGICAL" UNEASINESS, AND NOTED THAT AT PRESENT NO COUNTRY RELIES EXCLUSIVELY ON ITS STRENGTH IN SECURING ITS NATIONAL DEFENSE.HE ADDED, "NEVERTHELESS, IT ULTIMATELY REST ON OUR OWN RESOLVE AND MIGHT TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY..." AND SAID "IT IS FOREMOST FOR US THEREFORE TO COLTIVATE OUR POWER AND BOOST SELF-CONFIDENCE FULL OF DETERMINATION". PAK EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ROK ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF,
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DECLARING "WE WILL NEVER LOSE IN A BATTLE WITH THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNIST CLIQUE BECAUSE OUR ARMED FORCES HAVE BECOME SO STRONG." HE CONCLUDED "I CAN FIND NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT DEFEND OUR COUNTRY WITH OUR OWN NATIONAL STRENGTH AS IT IS TODAY."

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ARE STRONGER THAN PREVIOUS

PUBLIC AFFIRMATIONS OF ROK ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF EVEN
IN EVENT U.S. TROOP DRAWDOWN AND SEEM CLEARLY DESIGNED AS
A FURTHER EFFORT TO ALLAY PUBLIC ANXIETIES ON THIS SCORE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: PRESIDENT PAK COMMENTS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL
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